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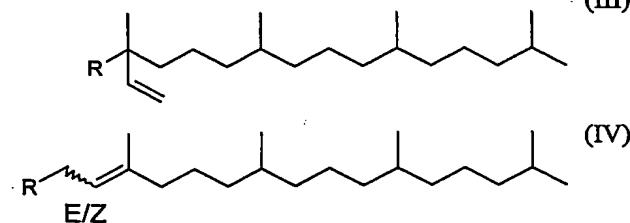
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metal cation, n is the valence of the cation M^{n+} , and R_1 is fluorine, C_{1-8} -perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroaryl, and, if required, cyclizing any 3-phytyl-2,5,6-trimethylhydroquinone-1-acetate or a double bond isomer thereof obtained as an intermediate reaction product, to produce α -tocopheryl acetate. In the catalyst M^{n+} is preferably Ag^+ , Cu^+ , Ga^{3+} , Sc^{3+} , Lu^{3+} , Ho^{3+} , Tm^{3+} , Yb^{3+} or Hf^{4+} .